Prevention of benami transactions

5436. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently decided to take suitable steps to prevent benami transactions and illegal and unaccounted transfer of property/ realestate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps teken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Parliament had enacted the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988. However, certain legal difficulties have been noticed in its implementation.

(c) To remove difficulties in the implementation of the above Act, major amendments are needed which are being examined by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) in consultation with the other Ministries/Departments concerned.

Lower productivity of Indian Ports

5437. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though India has a very long coast line, there are only 11 major ports in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these ports handle 90 per cent of all imports and exports;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian ports continue to show lower productivity in comparison to other ports in the region; and

(d) if so, what are the Government plans to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the Major Ports together handle about 85 per cent of the total sea-borne export and import cargo.

(c) and (d) The productivity of a port depends on a number of factors, including location of the port and depth of waters/size of vessel calling at the

port. As such a direct comparison of productivity at Indian Ports with other ports in the region may not be of relevance. However, in order to improve the productivity of Indian Ports various measures have been taken by the Government. As a result, cargo handled at the ports has been increasing steadily.

Integrated Transport Policy

5438. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to draw up Integrated Transport Policy in order to build up a harmonised integrated transport network;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the policy is likely to be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission is the Nodal agency for formulation of Integrated Transport Policy. Draft Integrated Transport Policy is being discussed by the Task Force on Infrastructure and a view will be taken after its finalisation by the Task Force.

Feasibility study on widening of NHs

5439. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any feasibility study on the widening of National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and NH-wise;

(c) the details of four-laning/six laning work under progress at present; and

(d) the proposal under consideration at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.